

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 10586 171635Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----125461 171641Z /44

O P 171607Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4964
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 10586

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PINT, PINS, LE, IS, UN
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON - MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE BATTALION

REF: (A) BEIRUT 4770 (B) TEL AVIV 10462

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO FIRST TWO QUESTIONS
POSED IN PARA 2 REF A.

A. IS THERE DEFINITE AGREEMENT FROM THE ISRAELIS
ON THE PROPOSAL FOR AN ALTERNATE SITE? YES
(PARA 6 REF B).

B. IS THE ALTERNATE SITE SAFE? NO. HOWEVER,
IDF HAS STATED IT WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE SAFER THAN
TIBNIN (PARA 6 REF B.)

2. WE COMPLETELY AGREE WITH THE RESPONSE THAT AMBASSADOR
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PARKER GAVE CONCERNING THE THIRD QUESTION; I.E.,
DO THE ISRAELIS GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THE LEBANESE
UNIT AT THAT SITE? NO HOWEVER, BEN GAL TOLD ERSKINE
THAT THE IDF WOULD DO THEIR VERY BEST TO CONTROL THE
MILITIAS AND PRECLUDE SHELLING.

3. COMMENT: APPRECIATE DICK PARKER'S EFFORTS TO

PERSUADE THE GOL THAT THE ISRAELIS DO NOT ENTIRELY
CONTROL HADDAD AND THE MILITIAS, ALTHOUGH
I AM NOT AT ALL SURE THAT THEY WILL EVER REALLY BELIEVE
US. I ALSO AGREE TOTALLY WITH THE IMPLIED MESSAGE
TO BOUTROS THAT TO SEND THE ARMY SOUTH "BY FORCE"
WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR ALL CONCERNED.
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

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